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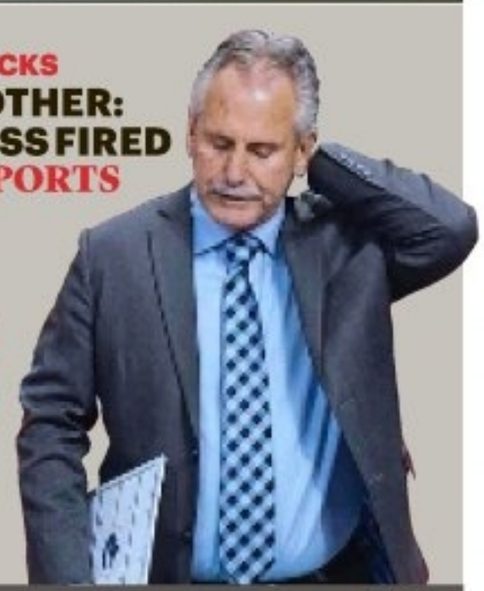

CANUCKS

OH, BROTHER: BENCH BOSS FIRED

metroSPORTS

WHAT'S AT STAKE

- POVERTY
- HOMELESSNESS
- PIPELINES
- EDUCATION

WRIT DROPS TODAY ON B.C.'S 2017 PROVINCIAL ELECTION. PARTIES DROP THE GLOVES OVER $10-A-DAY CHILDCARE

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Liberals reveal platform

POLITICS

Forgoing tolls means credit downgrade, says minister

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

A day after the B.C. Liberals sparred with the New Democrats over bridge tolls — the government vowing to cap them, and the NDP to scrap them — the finance minister raised the spectre of extreme financial fallout from his opponents' promise.

"The decision to forgo all toll revenues in the way the NDP have announced, in my view, will guarantee a credit downgrade for B.C.," Mike de Jong told reporters Monday. "This decision in and of itself is sufficient to lead to a credit downgrade."

The minister made his remarks ahead of the release of the B.C. Liberal election platform, one day before the campaign period opened Tuesday.

Asked to explain the dire forecast that B.C. could be downgraded to "AA" lending status, de Jong added: "This represents the first example of a decision, if taken by an NDP government, that would lead to a credit downgrade.

"It doesn't happen overnight, but in the case of Alberta it happened more quickly.... It happens with surprising speed; it's harder to get out of it."

Premier Christy Clark's BC Liberals unveiled their election platform after a months-long blitz of government spending announcements, revealing what she called "a $1-billion middle-class tax cut" aimed at households earning under $125,000 annually.

"I believe in putting more money in the pockets of hard-working British Columbians," she quipped, "not taking more out."

That stands in relief to her NDP and Green rivals trying to cast the 16-year Liberal government — which Clark's led for six — as beholden to wealthy donors and corporate lobbyists. A flurry of last-minute attack ads hit TV and radio airwaves this week before the official writ dropped and campaign spending limits begin.

"We're going to end the high-income tax break the BC Liberals gave to the top two per cent in 2013," NDP leader John Horgan told a crowd of supporters at a Surrey campaign rally Sunday. "Christy Clark has one job, and up until recently was getting two salaries, one from you and one from her rich donors."

The Liberal platform promises to spend roughly $53 million in the first year after the election, ramping up to $157 million after three years.

The NDP has not released its platform yet.

Premier Christy Clark made an announcement about the B.C. Liberals at the Mobify offices on Monday. JIMMY JEONG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOP ELECTION ISSUES

Housing
Complaints about unaffordable homes — as tent cities for homeless people sprang up in B.C. cities — have some voters asking if they can afford to live in their communities.

Political donations
Without limits on corporate, union or individual contributions to parties, B.C.'s become known as the fundraising Wild West — and sparked an investigation involving the RCMP and a special prosecutor.

Child care
The NDP is promising $10-a-day daycare based on Quebec's system as one of the major planks in its campaign.

Education
The toll of a long-running battle between the province and teachers, which saw a bitter strike shut down schools, could become a campaign issue.

Pipelines
Both Ottawa and Victoria approved the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, but tripling oil tankers in the Burrard Inlet remains controversial.

Economy
B.C. leads Canada in job creation, but rural regions are hurting. Promised riches from liquefied natural gas have yet to appear.

Minimum wage
The NDP is vowing an hourly minimum wage of $15, while the Liberals have been implementing staggered increases that critics argue are below a living wage.

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FOCUS ON HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness rises 30 per cent

HOUSING

Indigenous people in Metro Vancouver now 1/3 of homeless

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

At least 3,605 people slept either on the street or in shelters on the night of March 7, 2017, a 30 per cent increase from the last count in 2014, according to Metro Vancouver.

That number is a 24-hour snapshot of homelessness in the region but the actual number of people without homes is likely higher — up to three to four times higher, according to the regional authority.

Advocates say the report reflects the grim reality of social inequality and housing unaffordability in Metro Vancouver.

The Union Gospel Mission One Downtown Eastside shelter has turned away 102 people in the last nine days, according to Jeremy Hunka, the shelter's spokesperson.

"That's a really high number of people who are showing up at our doors and feeling desperate enough to go to a homeless shelter, only to be told there's no room here," he said.

Certain groups are especially vulnerable to housing loss.

Indigenous people were overrepresented in the count, making up 34 per cent of the region's homeless population. Less than 5 per cent of B.C.'s population identify as Aboriginal, according to Statistics Canada.

But homelessness is an issue that touches people from many walks of life and it's not just a Downtown Eastside issue, said Lorraine Copas, executive director of the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC). "You're seeing the pressures in the suburban regions. There's not enough rental, and where there is rental it's not affordable. It's a systems failure, really."

And while opening more shelters may reduce the number of people sleeping on the streets, and increasing support services for mental health and addiction issues is important, affordable rental housing is what's needed most, she explained.

"Affordable housing is the solution to homelessness," said Copas, who helped put the homeless count report together. "You have to add supply to take that pressure off the system."

Metro Vancouver has an overall vacancy rate of 0.7 per cent and Surrey has a dismal 0.4 per cent, according to Copas. A three per cent vacancy rate is considered healthy, she said. But the funds to build more rental housing usually come from the provincial government.

The report comes at a time when B.C.'s political parties are launching their campaigns for the May 9 election.

But Metro Vancouver's director, Mike Clay, emphasized that while the region was mindful to release the report in time for the election, the report itself not partisan.

"The report is just a count. It's non-partisan, it's fact," he told Metro after the press conference.

But Clay, who is also the mayor of Port Moody, noted cities have had to take on the increasingly heavy burden of providing housing and that higher levels of government need to step up.

"We want to know they have a plan to help us out as cities and as a region to deal with these growing problems." A final homeless count report is scheduled for release May 2017. WITH FILES FROM JEN ST. DENIS

A man sleeps on the streets of Vancouver. RAFE ARNOTT/METRO FILE

STATISTICS

Surburban homelessness is growing faster in Metro Vancouver's suburbs than the City of Vancouver. Advocates say this could be due to the high cost of housing in Vancouver.

Surburb	% change
1. Delta/White Rock	142%
2. Langley	124%
3. Tri-Cities	113%
4. Richmond	84%
5. Surrey	49%
6. Ridge Meadows	48%
7. New Westminster	25%
8. Burnaby	19%
9. Vancouver	19%
10. North Shore	-16%

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FOCUS ON HOMELESSNESS

BC Rental Housing Coalition is asking provincial candidates to sign on to a plan calling for a big bump in affordable housing funds. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Housing advocates ask for cash bump

Cost to properly house B.C. residents $1.8B a year: Report

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

A group of housing advocates are asking provincial election candidates to commit to spend $700 million a year on affordable housing, on top of the $428 million the B.C. government already spends on social housing.

"We just conducted a homeless count in the freezing cold and we saw thousands and thousands of people all around here in deep despair," said Kishone Roy, executive director of the BC Non-Profit Housing Association. "That number is growing and I don't know when we're going to stop being OK with it and say we need to solve it."

B.C. needs an additional $1.8 billion in spending to close a huge gap between rental and social housing needs and what exists now, according to an analysis released today by the Rental Housing Coalition, a group that includes the BCNPHA, the Co-op Housing Federation of BC and Landlord BC. That money would go towards building new supply, repairing existing buildings, income support and preventing homelessness.

The non-profit and community housing sector could contribute $461 million, while $691 million could come from the province and another $691 from the federal government. Contributions could come in the form of land and financing as well as direct funding.

The B.C. government will spend $855 million between 2016 and 2018 to construct and repair social housing buildings, but that is a one-time spend partly derived from the sale of hundreds of BC Housing properties to non-profit groups. In 2017, the government will spend $1.2 billion on home owner tax breaks and taxpayer-funded home loan programs.

Home ownership is not a part of the BC Rental Housing Coalition report because "we have taken the position that government investments in home ownership should not be designed to escalate the cost of homes."

The group says it does support shared equity models that ensure affordability for the long-term.

Roy said the costs of not investing money in social and affordable rental housing are going to be much higher: By spending $81 million to prevent homelessness, the plan could save $177 million in health, justice and social support costs. He argued that building more rental buildings would also create jobs.

The analysis showed that there is currently a backlog of 80,000 rental units, and B.C. will need 7,000 new rental units every year over the next 10 years to keep up with new demand. Nearly 45 per cent of renters are spending more than 30 per cent of their income on rent, while 23 per cent are spending over 50 per cent of their money to keep a roof over their heads.

Meanwhile, homelessness continues to rise in Metro Vancouver: The latest homeless count figures show there are now 3,605 homeless people in the region, a 30 per cent increase since 2014.

> **We just conducted a homeless count in the freezing cold and we saw thousands and thousands of people all around here in deep despair.** Kishone Roy

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Children attend a public event at the Guildford Recreation Centre in Surrey. Child care is a hot election issue. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

B.C. Premier accused of 'Trump-like' lies

POLITICS

NDP attacks Christy Clark on creating new child care spaces

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The gloves are already off as the British Columbia election campaign gets underway, with an NDP MLA accusing Premier Christy Clark of "Trump-like" lies on child care.

Clark launched the B.C. Liberals' platform Monday, reiterating government's previous commitment to create 13,000 new child care spaces by 2020.

While doing so, she took a shot at the NDP's plan for a $10 a day child care system in B.C., comparing it to Quebec's, where she says a similar model has created long wait lists.

"Some parents waited for years to try to get their children into day care," Clark said, adding her plan, "won't create long wait lists and it won't raise taxes."

On Friday, she said Quebec's system led to "massive shortages" of day care spaces.

"Everybody suddenly moved their kids into day care, even though they could afford a nanny or something like that," she said.

"A lot of people started rushing to put their kids into unlicensed, unregulated spaces. We don't need that to happen in British Columbia."

> **She just makes stuff up. There have been people that have come from Quebec to talk about the system there and the things that she's saying about it simply aren't true.**
> Jodie Wickens

Clark's denouncement of the $10 a day plan come when B.C. is under fire for its own lack of affordable child care spaces, and after Shelley Sheppard — a Vancouver mother whose 16-month-old son died at an unlicensed day care in January — wrote an open letter to the premier about the shortage of regulated options for parents.

Jodie Wickens, the NDP MLA for Coquitlam-Burke Mountain, said she was shocked by Clark's comments given the situation in B.C.

"She just makes stuff up," said Wickens.

"There have been people that have come from Quebec to talk about the system there and the things that she's saying about it simply aren't true. It's a lot of fear mongering and, quite frankly, Trump-like. The system that we currently have in place is completely chaotic, it needs reform."

Wickens says the B.C. NDP plan also includes creating more spaces and providing better pay for child care workers, but said specifics won't be available until the party's platform is released Thursday. Meanwhile, child care worker and advocate Sharon Gregson said the Liberal child care plan is "absolutely appalling."

"Even if they were to create that many spaces, it would not be keeping up with the birth rate," she said. "Fees get higher every year for families and the number of spaces that we have do not keep up."

She said just 20 per cent of children in B.C. have access to child care — which can cost families more than $1,500 a month — compared to 60 per cent under Quebec's $10 a day system.

Simply creating new spaces doesn't address affordability either, she added.

Gregson is spokesperson for the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C., which released a report Monday showing that the Liberal government has actually spent $96 million less than it budgeted for on child care over the past four years.

"This is $100 million that could have a significant impact for families and their children," she said.

"There are lots of ways this could have been spent to mitigate the chaos that exists in B.C.'s child care right now."

Children and Family Development Minister Stephanie Cadieux sent Metro a statement in response to the report, saying that despite the under-spending, "Government has met and is on track to exceed all of our BC Early Years Strategy targets by 2020-21."

"In certain situations, to ensure we meet priorities — such as protecting children — it may be necessary and appropriate to re-direct funding from one program or service area to another," Cadieux said.

The B.C. Green Party is promising publicly funded day care for children under three and 25 hours of early childhood education a week for three and four year olds under its platform.

WITH FILES FROM JEN ST. DENIS

Re-accommodation, United Airlines style

CHICAGO

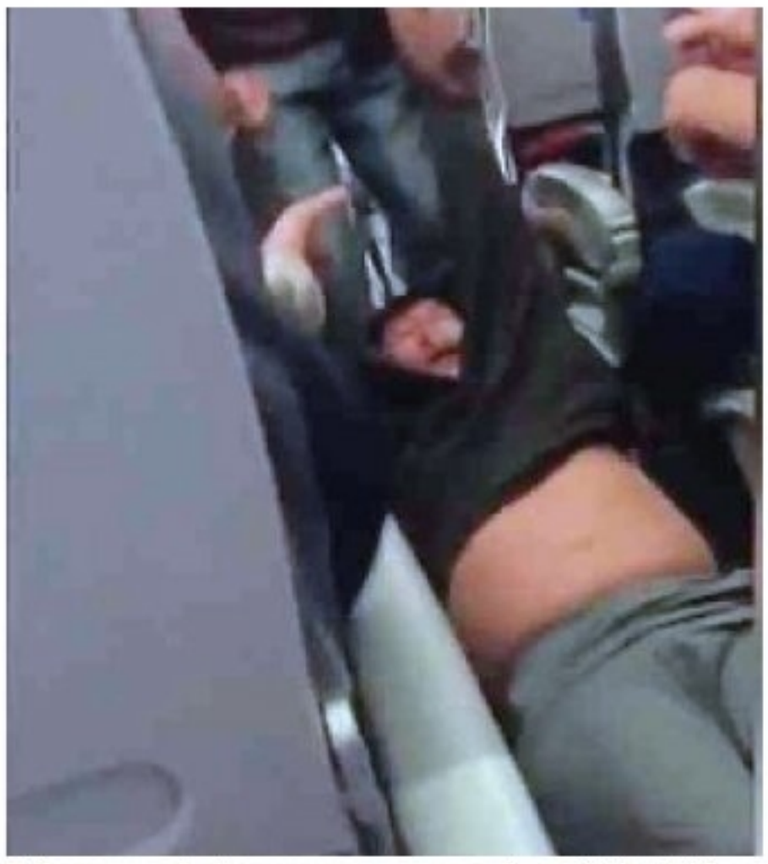
Uproar after man is forcibly removed from packed flight

Video of police officers dragging a passenger from an overbooked United Airlines flight sparked an uproar Monday on social media, and a spokesman for the airline insisted that employees had no choice but to contact authorities to remove the man.

As the flight waited to depart from Chicago's O'Hare Airport, officers could be seen grabbing the screaming man from a window seat, pulling him across the armrest and dragging him down the aisle by his arms. United was trying to make room for four employees of a partner airline on the Sunday evening flight to Louisville, Kentucky.

Other passengers on Flight 3411 are heard saying, "Please, my God," "What are you doing?" "This is wrong," "Look at what you did to him" and "Busted his lip."

Passenger Audra D. Bridges posted the video on Facebook. Her husband, Tyler Bridges, said United offered $400 and then $800 vouchers and a hotel stay for volunteers to give up their seats. When no one volunteered, a United manager came on the plane and announced that passengers would be chosen at random.



Police were called to remove a passenger from a United Airlines flight in Chicago. The incident sparked an uproar. CONTRIBUTED

"We almost felt like we were being taken hostage," Tyler Bridges said. "We were stuck there. You can't do anything as a traveller. You're relying on the airline."

When airline employees named four customers who had to leave the plane, three of them did so. The fourth person refused to move, and police were called, United spokesman Charlie Hobart said.

"We followed the right procedures," Hobart told the Associated Press in a phone interview. "That plane had to depart. We wanted to get our customers to their destinations."

Oscar Munoz, CEO of United Airlines' parent company, described the event as "upsetting" and apologized for "having to re-accommodate these customers." He said the airline was conducting a review and reaching out to the passenger to "further address and resolve this situation." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fight for your right to flights

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

As the summer travel season approaches, Metro breaks down your rights when it comes to air travel.

Overbooked and bumped from your plane

Whether you volunteer or are voluntold to get off a flight you've paid for, the airline owes you compensation, air passenger advocate Gabor Lukacs told Metro. "They also have to rebook you on the next flight, including on flights of other airlines if they don't have flights of their own," Lukacs said.

How much you're entitled to is stated in the airline's "tariff" which outlines its contractual obligations to passengers. Air Canada's tariff, for example, says in the case of overbooking the airline will ask for volunteers to rebook in exchange for compensation. How much is at their discretion. If no volunteers are found, someone will be selected.

Luggage lost or damaged

Under the Montreal Convention you're again entitled to some reimbursement for lost or damaged luggage when travelling internationally, said Lukacs. Domestically it falls to individual airline tariffs but all the major Canadian airlines have language on this. It can be hard to make sense of the fine print.

Ottawa to address airline bumping in new bill

Canada will introduce new legislation this spring that will address the problem of travellers being bumped from flights, the federal government said Monday, as the violent dragging of a passenger off an overbooked flight in the U.S. unleashed anger over the practice.

A spokesman for Transport Minister Marc Garneau said bumping rules will be included in an air passenger bill of rights that was promised last fall to establish clear, minimum requirements for compensation when flights are oversold or luggage lost.

Marc Roy declined, however, to say if the legislation would set industry-wide standards or raise compensation to levels offered in the United States or Europe.

Garneau would not comment directly on the incident aboard a United Airlines flight Sunday, saying he did not know whether a passenger in Canada can be forcibly removed from a flight because of overbooking.

Passenger rights advocate Gabor Lukacs said the "troubling" video highlights the need for greater consumer protection.

"Sadly, people realize what bumping actually means only when an incident so extreme happens," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CALIFORNIA

Apparent school murder-suicide kills adults, student

A husband opened fire on his wife Monday in a San Bernardino elementary school classroom, killing her and a student in a murder-suicide that spread panic across a city still recovering emotionally from a terrorist attack at a community centre just 15 months ago.

The shooter also died, and a second student was critically wounded at North Park School.

"The children we do not believe were targeted," police Capt. Ron Maass told reporters.

The gunman was identified as 53-year-old Cedric Anderson, of Riverside, who shot his wife, Elaine Smith, also 53. She was a teacher in the special-needs classroom for students in first through fourth grades.

Anderson said nothing as he began firing a large-calibre revolver, according to police. Both of the children who were hit were standing behind Smith. An 8-year-old later died. The other student was hospitalized in stable condition.

The gunman had a history of weapons, domestic violence and possible drug charges that predated the marriage, which lasted only a few months, authorities said.

The boy who died was identified as Jonathan Martinez. Authorities did not name the other boy who was wounded. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students and parents are reunited after the shooting. GETTY IMAGES

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Avoid 'mistakes of the past': Trudeau

POLITICS

PM condemns Bashar Assad's government on solemn trip

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was in France for two days of overseas commemorations for Canadian soldiers killed in the two world wars, including the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and Canada's role in D-Day on June 6, 1944.

"The men who fought in 1944 were carrying the legacy of those who risked their lives at Vimy Ridge in 1917," Trudeau said after walking the beach with his wife Sophie Gregoire Trudeau and their son Xavier.

But there was no escaping the here and now, with the attack in Syria still fresh on everyone's mind. And the irony wasn't lost on Trudeau.

Bashar Assad's days as president of Syria are numbered, Trudeau suggested Monday as more hostile talk from international powers continued to amplify the threat of a military escalation in the Middle East.

The way forward in Syria can't include Assad, whose recent chemical attack against his own people were abetted by countries that have allowed him to remain in power, Trudeau said.

"There is no question that anyone who is guilty of the types of war crimes against innocents, against children, that Assad and his regime are needs to be held to account," he said during a visit to Juno Beach to commemorate Canada's Second World War dead. "We need to move as quickly as possible towards peace and stability in Syria that does not involve Bashar al-Assad."

Trudeau was, however, noncommittal when it came to the question of how to remove Assad from power, and whether Russia should be punished for supporting him. Canada remains open to imposing new sanctions against Russia in concert with its allies, he said, but Russia must also be part of the solution for bringing peace to Syria.

"Countries that have been supportive of the Assad regime bear some of the responsibility for the chemical attacks on innocents," he said.

"And those countries must also be part of the solution as we hold the Assad regime to account."

The U.S. fired 59 cruise missiles at a Syrian airfield last week in retaliation for the chemical attack, sparking tough talk and warnings from all sides.

The degree of hostility intensified on multiple fronts between the U.S. and its allies, versus Assad and his backers Iran and Russia. The U.S. said it has evidence Russia's military helped cover up the use of chemical weapons.

Trudeau left no doubt that he considered Assad's government responsible for last week's chemical attack, which killed more than 80 people, including many children, in the Syrian province of Idlib. Russia and Iran were also at least partly to blame, he added, because of their support for Assad's murderous regime.

Asked whether he feared the world was on the verge of a new war, Trudeau said the international community needed to come together and address its challenges.

"The raging civil war in Syria, the violent conflicts around the world require an international community that pulls together, that holds each other to account and that strives everyday not to repeat the terrible mistakes of the past." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Justin Trudeau, Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau and their son Xavier look at the headstone of a member of Gregoire-Trudeau's family, who was killed during WWI, at the Canadian Military Cemetery of Beny-sur-Mer, France on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

FUNDING

Scientists need more support

Tamar Harris
For Metro | Ottawa

Canada's scientific community needs additional funding and innovative thinking to combat eroding research competitiveness, according to a report released Monday by Canada's Fundamental Science Review.

The report calls for $1.3 billion in funding to counter "flatlining of federal spending" and preferential funding in the recent past.

It also suggests that oversight and co-operation across government agencies are lacking. There are more than 35,000 federal government employees working in science and technology fields.

"Findings from the review will help our government continue to strengthen Canada's international standing in fundamental science and capacity to produce world-leading research that improves the lives of Canadians," Minister of Science Kirsty Duncan said in a statement.

Duncan launched the independent review last June. In the months since, a nine-person panel, headed by former University of Toronto president David Naylor, conducted online consultations and roundtables across the country.

"We feel the final report offers hope and scope for improving the role of scientists within the federal government as well," the president of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC), Debi Daviau, in a statement.

The report proposed the creation of a National Advisory Council on Research and Innovation, composed of 12 to 15 members that would advise ministers and the Prime Minister's Office.

The report also identified the difficulties getting and keeping jobs in science.

One unnamed researcher at the Université de Montreal compared it to trying to make the National Hockey League.

"Nothing is impossible but the chances of making a real career out of it are slim," he told the panel.

IN BRIEF

A Masters mystery solved, goes for megabucks

The mystery surrounding an authentic green jacket from Augusta National Golf Club that was once bought for $5 in 1994 at a Toronto thrift store likely stoked the enthusiasm of collectors and drove its sale at auction for more than $139,000 US, the auction house said Monday. Green Jacket Auctions said the distinctive sport coat presented each year to the Masters winner was sold Saturday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Free tuition, with a catch

EDUCATION

Students must stay in New York after graduation

There's a big string attached to New York's free middle-class college tuition initiative: Students must stay in the state after graduation or else pay back the benefit.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Monday that the requirement was added to protect the state's investment in a student's education by ensuring they don't take advantage of free tuition and then leave New York.

The tuition initiative, which Cuomo said is a national model, covers state college or university tuition for in-state students from families earning $125,000 or less. Students must remain in New York for as many years as they received the benefit. They must repay the money as a loan if they take a job in another state.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signs legislation for free college tuition Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Why should New Yorkers pay for your college education and then you pick up and you move to California?" Cuomo said during a call with state editorial writers. "The concept of investing in you and your education is that you're going to stay here and be an asset to the state. If you don't want to stay here, then go to California now, let them pay for your college education."

Students at University at Albany, part of the state university system, aren't so sure.

Cumorah Reed, a 19-year-old English major, said certain technology jobs are concentrated on the West Coast and many of her classmates will be surprised to learn they will not be able to apply for those positions immediately after graduation. "I think it's going to be harder than people think," Reed said.

Ashley Mendez, 18, a journalism and communications major, said the proposal is a fair compromise because many residents will stay anyway.

"I'm a New Yorker. I wouldn't leave the state for anything," Mendez said.

Sara Goldrick-Rab, a professor of higher education at Temple University, said the requirement undercuts the promise of free tuition and could deliver a nasty shock to students who fail to read the fine print or who take the money believing they will stay in New York only to find better job opportunities elsewhere.

"It's absolutely bait-and-switch," she said. "You entice people with something they really, really need and then you penalize them if they can't find a decent job and have to leave."

Students who receive free tuition and then leave the state for an advanced degree won't have to pay the money back assuming they return to New York once they complete their graduate studies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business digest

Bombardier executive compensation delayed
After facing nearly two weeks of criticism, Bombardier said Monday its board had approved delaying payment of planned compensation for six executive officers by one year to 2020, provided the company meets certain objectives. Had the changes not been approved, the executive compensation for 2016 would've been nearly 50 per cent more than the previous year.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Help those hurt by free trade, global groups say
The world isn't doing enough to help workers and communities damaged by free trade, the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organization say.

The three multinational groups want countries to make it easier for people to switch careers or move where jobs are and in some cases to provide insurance for lost wages.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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POSTCARD NO. 69

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TAKING A THREE HOUR BOAT RIDE THROUGH THE THOUSAND ISLANDS IS THE BEST WAY TO BOTH ADMIRE AND APPRECIATE THE SPECTACULAR AND BREATHTAKING SCENERY THE PLACE HAS TO OFFER AND IF POSSIBLE, WOULD LOVE TO MAKE IT MY ANNUAL SUMMER ACTIVITY. **GRACINDA VARGHESE**

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Each day until July 1, Metro will feature one reader's postcard in our editions across the country, on Metronews.ca and our 150postcards Instagram page. Get involved by sending us a photo of your favourite place in Canada along with 25 to 50 words about why that place is special to you. Email us at **scene@metronews.ca** or post to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag **#150postcards.**

metro CITIES
Your essential urban intelligence

PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan

BLUEPRINT by Sarah-Joyce Battersby

What lies beneath

Skylines often provide the shorthand for a city, but the ground beneath the buildings is fertile territory too. There's useful and livable space beneath us, and with space at a premium on the surface, sometimes the solution is to dig down. **These cities are putting more than pipes underground.**

AP PHOTO

Play: Projected to open in 2021, New York is working to convert a disused underground trolley terminal on the Lower East Side of Manhattan into a park. Using fibre-optic technology to create light sources underground, the developers hope to create a sprawling space with greenery, fountains, and spots to hang out, do yoga, play and engage.

VIMEO/GIKEN

Park: In city where 14 per cent of commuters are cyclists and in a country where 78 per cent of households have a bike, Tokyo needs somewhere to put all those two-wheelers. Enter Eco Cycle, an elevator that whisks bikes from the street to vertical parking silos under the city streets. As an added bonus, the bikes are protected from the elements and would-be thieves.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shop: Winter — you don't want to go through it, you can't get around it, so Canadians go under it. Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg are among the cities that boast vast subterranean path systems to link urbanites to shops, office towers and transit stations without ever needing to step foot in a pile of slushy city snow.

FLICKR/ ZERO CARBON FOOD

Farm: The heart of London doesn't leave much room for farmers' fields. But when chefs want to get their hands on locally grown produce, they can dig deep — 33 metres deep — to Growing Underground. Built in a WWII-era bomb shelter, the farm produces salad greens and herbs year-round using LED and hydroponic technology, all while reducing carbon emissions by keeping travel time down and reconnecting city dwellers to their food sources.

GETTY IMAGES

Thrive: With more than 5 million people on an island smaller than New York City, Singapore has ambitious plans to make space. Nanyang University has devoted an entire department to studying the feasibility of building under the city, and the government is investing millions of dollars to explore plans for everything from a research facility housing 4,200 scientists to moving utilities, like an oil cavern, underground.

WORD ON THE STREET by David Hains

It rarely pays to play when sports teams call for cash: Expert

Andrew Zimbalist CONTRIBUTED

With five Canadian teams in the NHL playoffs, there's lots to like for fans.

There's less to like on the business side. The Calgary Flames CEO threatened to "just move" if a $1.8-billion arena isn't built (with $1.3 billion from the city).

Does it ever make sense to subsidize sports?

We asked economist Andrew Zimbalist, author of Circus Maximus and No Boston Olympics. He says the numbers often don't add up.

Emotional appeal
Subsidy boosters argue the team is part of the city's DNA, and brings intangible benefits; in other words, benefits are unknown.

Zimbalist says emotional arguments to subsidize the team can be made, but don't substitute for a business case. "If you're concerned at a social or cultural level, then I would say you have to think about subsidies. But don't think about subsidies because of an economic impact."

The local economy
Zimbalist says the argument that sports is a boon to city coffers is overblown. Research shows entertainment dollars are still spent in the absence of a team. Also, sports aren't great at keeping financial activity in the city. Take the NHL: players are paid half of revenues, but most of that is taxed federally, or saved and invested globally. Taking the family to a nice restaurant is a more sound investment in the local economy.

Be specific
Zimbalist doesn't oppose all sports subsidies. He says stadiums as redevelopment catalysts can make sense, pointing to San Diego, Calif., and Brooklyn, N.Y. But those are the minority, and "the devil is in the details." He warns against subsidies by another name, like waiving property taxes, interest-free loans or introducing a special tax or fee to support the team.

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VICE PRESIDENT & EDITOR Cathrin Bradbury
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, REGIONAL SALES Steve Shrout
MANAGING EDITOR VANCOUVER Jeff Hodson
ADVERTISER INQUIRIES adinfovancouver@metronews.ca
General phone 604-602-1002
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PUBLIC WORKS
The week in urbanism

RAY OF HOPE
Georgia wants to turn a stretch of rural highway into a living lab for creating the road of the future. Dubbed The Ray, the road already boasts solar-powered vehicle charges. More innovations on the way include pavement that works like a solar panel and native plants lining the roads to provide bee habitat.

SOAK IT UP
A group of U.S. agencies and professional organizations have released a guidebook for city planners looking to build green infrastructure. The guide is designed to help cities mitigate climate change threats, like flooding and erosion.

URBAN DICTIONARY

DEFINITION
Bunching is the frustrating phenomenon that sees two or more late buses arrive at once. (And stopping it involves chaos theory.)

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
My new jeans are **bunching** worse than the downtown bus at rush hour.

CITY CHAMP

Sophia Horwitz is the director of Co*Lab in Halifax. The agency programs public art shows, walking tours and other engaging activities to get communities talking and creating together. **@sophiahorwitz**

metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Levi's expands MLB collection to include a Blue Jays line for men and women

Removing the 911 fear factor

FENTANYL CRISIS

New act looks to protect those reporting an overdose

Genna Buck and Ryan Tumilty
Metro Canada

The good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act, set to be debated by MPs on Tuesday, would offer legal protection to anyone phoning 911 for help at the scene of a drug overdose in a bid to remove the potentially fatal 'fear factor'. ISTOCK

It happens nearly every day, somewhere in Canada: A house party. Music blares. People use street drugs like cocaine, MDMA, heroin or pain pills.

Then someone collapses. Shaking them and shouting their name yields nothing.

It's an overdose, possibly of a deadly opioid like fentanyl. They need an ambulance. There's no time to lose.

And you, the bystander, are faced with a choice.

Do you call 911, potentially bringing the police down on your head? Do you call, but bolt before authorities arrive, leaving a critically ill person alone? Or do you try to cope on your own?

That decision may soon be a little easier.

MPs are gearing up for a debate Tuesday on the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act. If passed, it will protect everyone at the scene of a drug overdose from being charged or convicted for certain drug-related offences if they call for help.

An earlier version of the private member's bill, giving protection from simple drug possession charges, passed the House unanimously in November.

It has since been amended by the Senate to include immunity from charges of violating bail conditions, conditional sentences, probation orders or parole conditions — if the person's original offence related to drug possession.

Liberal MP Ron McKinnon, who introduced the bill back in February 2016, is pleased about the amendments and says he's "crossing his fingers" the issue comes to a vote and the show of unity continues.

Just two years ago, the House of Commons was passing strict limits on harm-reduction centres where people can use drugs under supervision — a proven way to reduce overdose deaths.

But a lot has changed since then, and not just the party in power. Overdose deaths have skyrocketed and dangerous opioids like fentanyl and carfentanil have become ubiquitous.

Now, harm-reduction advocates are praising government's efforts.

Rob Boyd, director of the Oasis needle exchange program at Ottawa's Sandy Hill Community Health Centre said for some people, this change will matter a lot.

> **When someone from our community overdoses, 911 is called less than half the time. And the number-one reason is fear of the police. They're afraid they will be charged with possession of drugs.** Rob Boyd

"When someone from our community overdoses, 911 is called less than half the time. And the number-one reason is fear of the police," he said. "They're afraid they will be charged with possession of drugs."

Boyd said as drug use and overdoses become problems at raves, parties and even weddings, it's important for people to know they don't face legal prosecutions for calling, even if that's not realistically likely.

"Unfortunately, fear does motivate behaviour."

Though McKinnon cautioned this bill is only "one arrow in the quiver" of a much larger response to the opioid crisis, he's hopeful it will help prevent people from panicking and making bad choices when someone overdoses.

"This is not all about addicts, though it certainly would apply to them," he said. "But it also applies to kids and young adults who go to parties and take some unknown pill somebody gives them.

"Casual users sometimes find themselves in dire straits. They don't know how to deal, they're fearful of being arrested or charged. And they try to handle it on their own when time is of the essence."

He explained the bill would also benefit people are afraid of being caught violating an order, such as a conditional sentence.

"For people in those circumstances, there's more to their story than just hanging out in a place where people are using drugs. They too are leery about calling for help.

"We want them to make that call anyway. We can't help people if they're dead."

HISTORY

THE YEAR FEMALE DISTANCE RUNNING WAS BORN This year's April 17 Boston Marathon will mark the 50th anniversary of Kathrine Switzer being the first "officially registered" woman to compete in the event (Bobbi Gibb participated unregistered, or as a "bandit," in the 1966-68 races). At the time, women were not allowed to enter the Boston Marathon. When race director John "Jock" Semple tried to physically remove her from the course, he was blocked by Switzer's burly boyfriend Tom Miller. The iconic images appeared in newspapers worldwide, and thus the era of female distance running was born. TORSAR NEWS SERVICE

Digest KYLIE, BOOKS, & BRITISH VOGUE

CELEBRITY

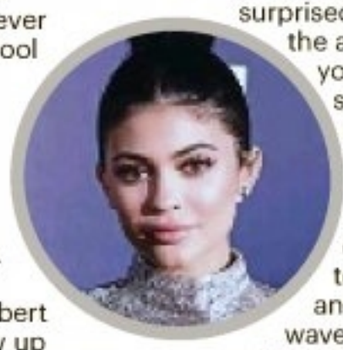
Kylie crashes prom

Kylie Jenner had never been to a high-school prom. Until last Saturday.

Certainly, no one from Rio Americano High School in Sacramento, Calif., anticipated that young graduate Albert Ochoa would show up with the 19-year-old Keeping Up With the Kardashians star on his arm.

To hear Ochoa's fellow teens tell the story, he had previously asked a fellow student to be his date and been rejected. He took to putting fliers up around the school, looking for a companion for the big event. Allegedly, someone working for Jenner saw the fliers on social media and set up the surprise date.

On Saturday night, just before prom was set to start, his family told him there was a family emergency, and surprised him with the arm of the young model/socialite. They soon walked into the prom — she wore a pink satin dress, slashed to the waist — and triggered a wave of disbelief and frantic social-media posting by his peers.



Ochoa even reportedly got a slow dance with the star in the bargain. TORSTAR

BOOKS

Figures author setting next book in Baltimore

The author of Hidden Figures is setting her next book around two prominent African-American households in mid-20th century Baltimore.

Viking said on Monday that it had a two-book deal with Margot Lee Shetterly that will continue her quest to tell of African-Americans who have been overlooked by historians. The first book doesn't yet have a title or release date.

The bestselling Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race was adapted into the Oscar-nominated movie of the same name.

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FASHION

British Vogue gets new chief editor after 25 years

British Vogue's search for a new leader has come to an end with the naming of Edward Enninful as the magazine's new chief editor.

He will be the first male editor of British Vogue when he takes over on Aug. 1.

Enninful, who had been the creative and fashion director at W magazine, has been an influential magazine fashion director for more than 20 years. He was born in Ghana and moved to London as a child.

Enninful received an OBE award last year for his work in fashion. Madonna, Kate Moss, Naomi Campbell and other fashion luminaries came to his party to mark the event.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEALTH BRIEF

Nearly half of U.S. adults catching genital HPV, says study

Health officials say nearly half of U.S. adults have caught HPV, a sexually-transmitted bug that can cause cervical cancer.

About 45 per cent of Americans ages 18 to 59 had some form of genital human papillomavirus, according to the most complete look at how common HPV is among adults.

More concerning, about 25 per cent of men and 20 per cent of women had strains that carry a higher risk of cancer.

There are more than 150 HPV viruses. In most cases, HPV goes away on its own. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says said most sexually active people will get HPV. TORSTAR

Why April has become the coolest month for TV

TELEVISION

Top shows mean spring no longer a rerun wasteland

Clockwise from left: Fargo season 3 star Olivia Sandoval, Bob Odenkirk, Giancarlo Esposito and Jonathan Banks of Better Call Saul, and Carrie Coon and Justin Theroux in The Leftovers.

It wasn't all that long ago that spring marked the tail end of TV series' seasonal lifespans.

In the network system, most shows wrapped up their annual runs, took the summer off, and premiered again in the fall to help people shake off the blunt force trauma of the end of vacation and a return to work and school.

But in the modern age, with producers relentlessly trying to entice viewers, there's no set agreed schedule.

That's to the benefit of consumers. With a constant stream of new, quality content, no longer do we have to sit through a wasteland of reruns until autumn rolls around.

And right now, April is the very best month TV has to offer.

If you're a sports fan, this month of TV is shaping up in a way it hasn't in years.

The NHL's Maple Leafs have secured a playoff berth for the first time since 2013; the NBA's Raptors have already secured a playoff spot, and both baseball's Blue Jays and soccer's Toronto Football Club are kicking off their seasons after successful campaigns last year.

However, the behemoth April TV has become is about much more than sports. Viewers have first-rate dramas premiering every week this month and there's something for everyone:

For starters, there are several critically-acclaimed series whose fans are cuticle-less in anticipation of the returns.

The first, **Better Call Saul (April 10, AMC)**, begins its third season and promises the sad-but-inevitable moral disintegration of Bob Odenkirk's Jimmy McGill into Breaking Bad's infamously wormy Saul Goodman. The first two seasons of the show did terrific work at building Jimmy/Saul's backstory and humanizing him, but producers Vince Gilligan and Peter Gould are using these next 10 episodes to illustrate his downfall and slick-slide into villainous territory.

Oh, and the iconic monster known as Gus Fring — last seen (spoiler alert!) blowing up real good in a nursing home in Breaking Bad's fourth season — will make an appearance. Better Call Saul is a fantastic companion story to the masterful one first told, and it's more than worth catching up on the first 20 episodes.

Nine days later, another phenomenal series returns for its third season: **Fargo (April 19, FX)**, which won a slew of primetime Emmy Awards and Golden Globes in its first season, and received rave reviews with an entirely different cast last year.

Filmed in Calgary, the anthology — based on the Coen Bros.' 1996 movie — will feature new cast members this year, including Ewan McGregor in two roles, and co-stars Carrie Coon (Gone Girl).

The outstanding Coon also has a starring role in **The Leftovers (April 16, HBO Canada)**, returning for a final third season. Produced by Lost co-creator Damon Lindelof, the show is as mysterious and bleak as TV gets, and its stellar cast makes the plot a continuing revelation.

If that isn't enough, April also sees the return of favourites such as **Archer (April 5, FXX)**; **Veep (April 16, HBO)**; and **Doctor Who (April 15, Space)**.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PODCAST

Ghomeshi podcast fuels backlash

About a year after being acquitted of sexual assault charges that destroyed a celebrated broadcasting career, former CBC personality Jian Ghomeshi resurfaced online Monday with a new music and podcast series.

The one-time media star announced a venture called The Ideation Project on Twitter, described on the website as "a creative adventure with the aim of taking a bigger-picture view on newsworthy issues and culture."

Reminiscent of the short essays that would kick off Ghomeshi's hosting gig on CBC Radio's Q, the debut post features musings on immigration, globalization and race. The six-minute monologue called Exiles asks: "What does it mean to feel like you have no homeland?"

The social media reaction was largely negative within hours of the debut, and branding expert Martin Waxman said Ghomeshi would be wise to move slowly as he returns to the spotlight.

"I think he's probably smart to do this in a low-key way, to sort of test the waters and see what the reaction is," said Waxman, of the Toronto firm Martin Waxman Communications.

Ghomeshi's career crashed hard after he was fired from the CBC in October 2014. At the time, the public broadcaster said it saw "graphic evidence" he had caused a woman physical injury.

His image as an erudite social progressive unravelled as multiple allegations followed, culminating in a high-profile trial that revealed intimate details of his romantic life.

Ultimately, Ghomeshi was acquitted in March 2016 of four counts of sexual assault and one count of choking involving three complainants.

In May 2016, he apologized to a fourth complainant and signed a peace bond that saw a final sexual assault count withdrawn.

Waxman said it's now up to the public to determine whether Ghomeshi can rebuild his career.

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Sabres forward Jack Eichel missed out on a $2-million bonus after the Oilers' Leon Draisaitl edged him out for 10th place in points per game

Canucks drop the axe on Desjardins

NHL

Eight straight losses to end season was nail in coffin

Willie Desjardins seemed to sense he was on borrowed time in the waning weeks of a second consecutive lost season with the Vancouver Canucks.

The club's head coach was increasingly candid with the media, admitting more than once he was aware his job might be in jeopardy as the team limped towards the finish line.

The axe fell swiftly on Monday morning.

Vancouver fired Desjardins less than 24 hours after an eighth straight loss in regulation that concluded a miserable 2016-17 campaign where the Canucks finished 29th in the NHL's overall standings with a 30-43-9 record.

"He's a great person who has great character," president of hockey operations Trevor Linden said during an afternoon press conference at Rogers Arena. "Our decision was based on just needing to make a change.

"There was a feeling between (general manager Jim Benning) and I there was some areas we can improve."

The 60-year-old Desjardins was 109-110-27 during his three seasons in charge, but 48 of those wins came in 2014-15 when led the club to the playoffs as a rookie NHL head coach.

Willie Desjardins was 109-110-27 during his three seasons as head coach of the Canucks.
RICH LAM/GETTY IMAGES

The rebuilding Canucks took a big step back last season with a 75-point, 28th-place finish before tumbling further with a dismal 69-point showing in 2016-17.

"It was a hard conversation," Linden said of how Desjardins took the news. "Willie's such a good person and has a big heart and loves the game. He was obviously disappointed. It's a challenging day for us.

"It was tough."

Vancouver also let go of assistants Doug Lidster and Perry Pearn, while Doug Jarvis and Dan Cloutier were retained.

Linden, a former Canucks captain who returned to take over hockey operations in the spring of 2014, was asked how much responsibility he and Benning bear for the organization's current plight.

"We're all in this, for sure. This is on us," he said. "At the same time we think there are some things we can do better."

Focus now shifts to Desjardins' replacement, who the Canucks hope to have in place by June's draft.

Benning said NHL experience isn't a prerequisite, which could be good news for Travis Green, currently the head coach of Vancouver's AHL affiliate.

"We want to find the coach that's the best fit for where we're at right now as an organization with our young players," said Benning.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **Our decision was based on just needing to make a change.**
> Trevor Linden

NHL

McDavid pockets Art Ross Trophy

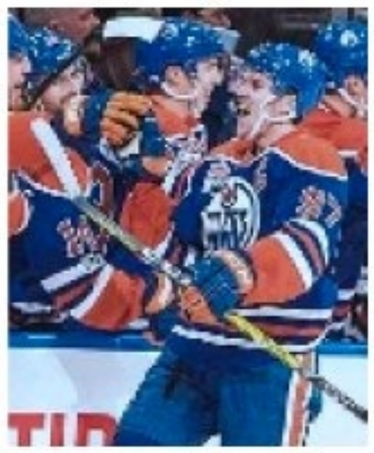
Connor McDavid is the third-youngest player to win the Art Ross Trophy after he led the NHL in scoring with 100 points.

McDavid turned 20 in January, and only Sidney Crosby and Wayne Gretzky were younger Art Ross winners. McDavid had 30 goals and 70 assists in his second season to finish with 11 more points than second-place Crosby and lead the Edmonton Oilers to their first playoff appearance since 2006.

Crosby, captain of the Pittsburgh Penguins, won his second Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy by leading the league with 44 goals.

Braden Holtby of the Washington Capitals won the William M. Jennings Trophy as the goaltender who allows the fewest goals. The Capitals allowed a league-low 182 goals, 13 fewer than the Columbus Blue Jackets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Connor McDavid got to the 100-point plateau with a pair of assists in the Oilers' final regular-season game on Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WORLD CUP

Canada would likely gain entry as co-host

Canada and Mexico will only get a slice of soccer's biggest prize if the joint North American bid for the 2026 World Cup is successful.

The proposed blueprint calls for 60 of the 80 games in the new expanded tournament format to be held in the U.S. with 10 going to Canada and 10 to Mexico.

"The final decisions on those things are up to FIFA. It's their tournament. But that will be our proposal and that is our agreement together," U.S. soccer president Sunil Gulati told a news conference atop the Freedom Tower in lower Manhattan.

109

Canada is currently ranked No. 109 in the world. Mexico is No. 16 and the U.S. are No. 23.

The good news for Canada, which has qualified just once for the men's World Cup, is the push to maintain the tradition of having the tournament host(s) automatically qualify.

The three-nation bid was officially launched on Monday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

James Paxton struck out eight batters in seven innings for his first win of the year.
STEPHEN BRASHEAR/GETTY IMAGES

MLB

M's blank Astros in home opener

James Paxton gave Seattle manager Scott Servais and the Mariners exactly the reset they needed after a horrid first week on the road.

"It's opening day, the first day of the season," Servais joked. "With what happened this last week, especially yesterday, we needed to bounce back. I felt strongly we would."

Paxton provided the fresh start, pitching seven innings of four-hit ball and leading the Mariners past the Houston Astros 6-0 on Monday in Seattle's home opener.

MONDAY In Seattle

MARINERS	ASTROS
6	0

Paxton shut down Houston for the second time in a week, helping the Mariners rebound from Sunday's ugly ninth-inning collapse against the Angels when they gave up seven runs and lost 10-9.

Nelson Cruz finally broke through with a two-run single in the fifth inning to give Seattle the lead and Mitch Haniger followed an inning later with a two-out RBI single. Seattle was 8 for 57 through the first seven games and 1 of 8 on Monday with runners in scoring position before Cruz lined Charlie Morton's pitch into centre field.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Verlander, Tigers get the better of Sale and Red Sox

Justin Verlander and Chris Sale dominated in a matchup of ace pitchers before Nicholas Castellanos singled in the go-ahead run off Sale in the eighth inning, lifting the Detroit Tigers over the Boston Red Sox 2-1 on Monday.

Verlander gave up an unearned run, three hits and two walks while striking out four over seven innings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heat rally to top Cavaliers, keep playoff hope alive

Tyler Johnson scored 24 points, including the game's final four from the foul line, and the Miami Heat remained alive in the post-season chase by rallying to beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 124-121 on Monday night.

The Cavs fell a game behind Boston in the race for the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Spring-fresh Roasted Asparagus with Tomatoes and Bacon

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The roasted flavour on the vegetables coupled with bacon will make this easy side dish your entrée's new best friend.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 large bunches of asparagus (500g)
- 1-2 Tbsp of extra virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 4 pieces of smoked (streaky) bacon, diced
- handful of cherry tomatoes, halved
- ½ cup of dry white wine
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400. Snap the ends of the asparagus — it'll always break where the woody bit ends, so you won't end up eating tough, stringy stems — and keep the ends with the tips. In a roasting pan, add the asparagus and the rest of the ingredients.

2. Toss it all together with your hands, squeezing the tomatoes slightly to get the juice out.

3. Bake for around 15-20 minutes, until the asparagus starts to brown a little and is nice and tender.

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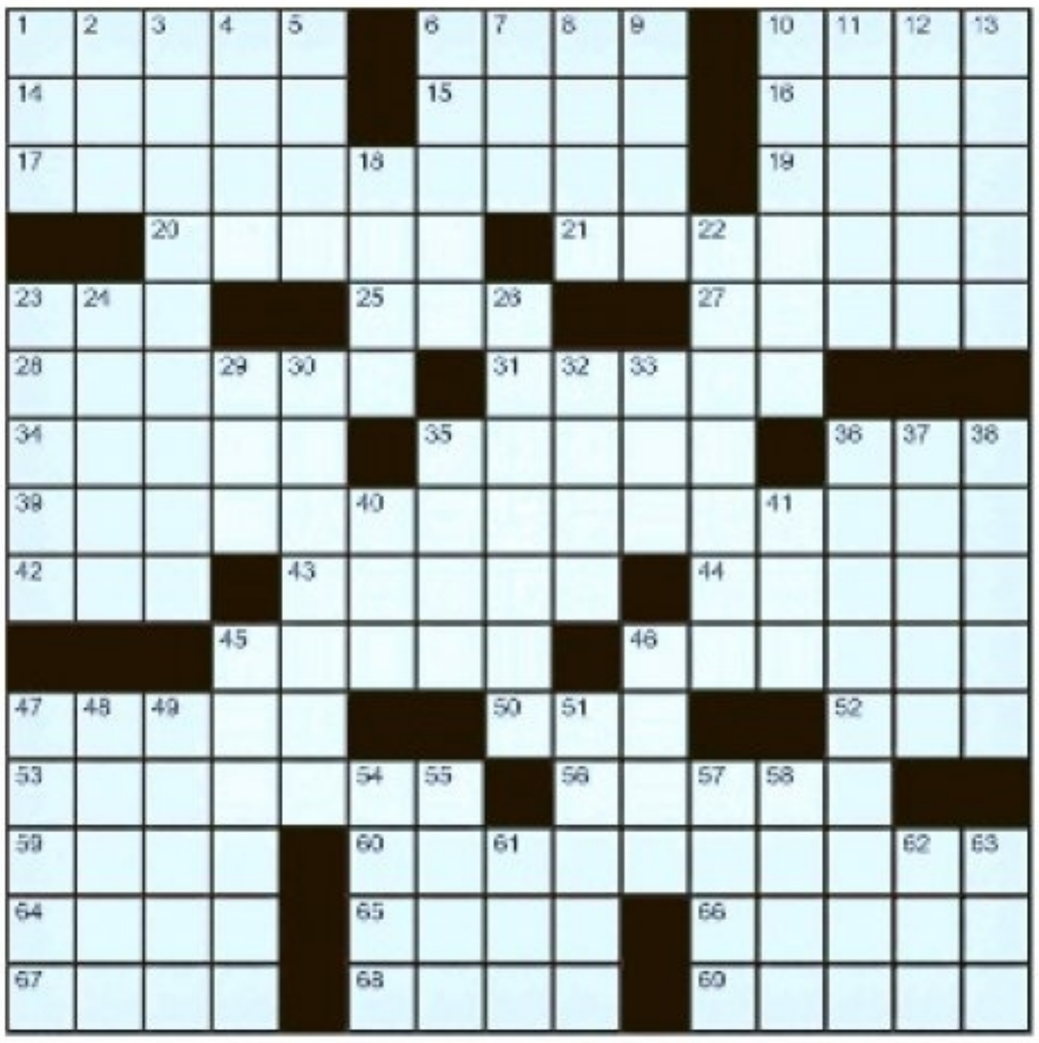
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Ars Gratia _ (MGM's motto)
6. City's air problem
10. Small argument
14. _-screen technology
15. Woodstock emcee Mr. Gravy
16. Cogito _ sum (I think therefore I am)
17. Tuesday, April 11th, 2017... Big game at the Rogers Centre: 2 wds.
19. Particular horse coat
20. Donor's life-saving donation
21. 'Twilight' character played by Nikki Reed, _ Hale
23. 'S' of RSVP
25. Beer barrel
27. Topple
28. Penguin of Antarctica
31. Mr. Fiennes of flicks
34. Broaden
35. Southern Alberta town
36. Seasonal ailment
39. Competition for the Milwaukee Brewers at #17-Across: 3 wds.
42. 1913 tune: "Peg _' _ Heart"
43. 1998 Edwin McCain song: 2 wds.
44. Tuesday, in Montreal
45. Every seven days, _ _ week
46. Rats and cockroaches, to a homeowner
47. Christopher Plummer film role, Captain _ von Trapp
50. Slimy stuff
52. Droop
53. Celebrity chef Emeril
56. Braid
59. Egyptian sun god, variantly
60. 1B to 3B in baseball
64. Movie director, Nicolas _
65. Shakespeare's river
66. Double and Triple in baseball
67. 'Susp' suffix
68. Ancient harp
69. Vehicle variety

DOWN
1. Baseball player, e.g.
2. Oz hopper
3. Way to undampen the clothes from the washing machine: 2 wds.
4. Reykjavik is its cap.
5. "Away ants!"
6. Ingrid Bergman, for one
7. "Rain _" (1988)
8. Completed
9. Roasted lamb sandwich
10. Winged/haloed being
11. Worker, informally
12. "Do It _" by Steely Dan
13. Fit
18. Nudge
22. Chocolate _ (Ice cream flavour)
23. Carried out a task, _ _ it
24. 'Burn the midnight oil', for example
26. Assortment/variety: 2 wds.
29. Mr. Sayer of songs
30. Baseball normally has nine
32. Having the means
33. Bucharest money
35. Lacquered metalware
36. Grange
37. Merle Oberon title role film of 1941
38. Putting into service
40. "No Scrubs" trio
41. _ of jam
45. Seville, for one
46. Mouse-like critter
47. TV screen problem
48. Toronto _ Centre
49. S-shaped mouldings
51. Express a thought
54. Earth crust's upper layer
55. Greenly admire
57. Snow-peaked mountains in Europe
58. Eric of "Monty Python's Flying Circus"
61. Favouring
62. Scandinavian rug
63. US tax ID

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Expect a surprise from a friend or partner today, because today is a bit of a crapshoot. Keep your head down and your powder dry.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Things at work will be unpredictable. It's a classic day for staff shortages, computer crashes, cancelled meetings and mixed-up communications. Fasten your seatbelt!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is an accident-prone day for your kids, so be extra vigilant if you are a parent. It's also an unpredictable day for social occasions and romantic get-togethers. Expect delays and cancellations.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Small appliances might break down at home today or minor breakages could occur. Something unusual will change your home routine.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is a mildly accident-prone day for your sign, so pay attention to everything you say and do. Later in the day, you might want to do some long-term planning.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Keep an eye on your money today, because things are unpredictable. You might find money, or you might lose money. Guard your possessions against loss, theft or breakage.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is an up-and-down day for you. The only thing you can do is go with the flow. Be flexible when it comes to your ever-changing schedule.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You feel restless today. That's OK, because this is a restless day. Ironically, it eventually will settle into a practical, solid routine.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
A friend will surprise you today. Alternatively, you might meet someone new today who is a real character. At least, it's not a boring day.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Go gently during important discussions with parents and bosses today, because something unexpected might catch you off guard. Think before you react. Be aware and mindful.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Travel plans are unpredictable today. You might suddenly have to travel for unexpected reasons, or planned travel might be interrupted or cancelled.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Double-check all details pertaining to shared property, banking, taxes and debt today, because something is awry. Make sure you know what's going on.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		6		7		1		
9			2	6	5			4
		4		5		3		
2		8				9		6
		7		8		2		
6			9	1	7			2
		1		4		8		

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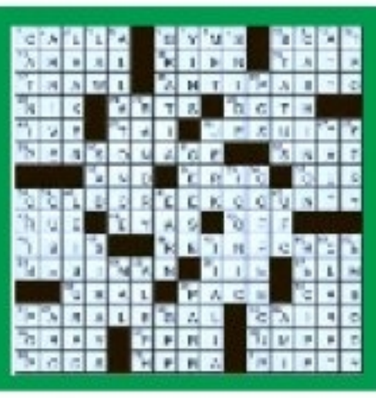
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



6	8	2	7	5	1	3	9	4
1	3	7	4	2	9	6	5	8
9	5	4	3	6	8	1	2	7
7	4	9	6	3	5	2	8	1
3	2	5	1	8	7	4	6	9
8	6	1	2	9	4	5	7	3
4	9	8	5	1	6	7	3	2
5	1	3	9	7	2	8	4	6
2	7	6	8	4	3	9	1	5

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